

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges acceptance of the amendments filed on August 10, 2005.

In response to the outstanding Office Action, claims 10, 14, 19-22 and 25 have been amended and claim 23 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 10, 12, 14-16, 18-22 and 24-27 are pending.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 23.

Response to the Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

- a. Applicant has amended claim 20 to remove the term “being stripped and;” however, Applicant believes that the remaining cited language, namely, the “other end [5] of one of the optical fibers [2] connected to one receiver [4]” and “the other end [7] of the other of the optical fibers [3] connected to the other receiver [8]” is fully supported as shown in the Drawings in Figure 1.
- b. Applicant has deleted the cited language from claim 20.
- c. Applicant has deleted the cited language from claim 21.
- d. Applicant has amended the Specification to include the terms “inner” and “outer” in referring to the first and second sheaths and now believes that the cited language, namely, “inner sheath [21]...that overlies the optical fibers [17,18]” of claim 21 is fully supported as shown in the Drawings in Figures 2a and 2b.
- e. Applicant has deleted the cited language from claim 22.
- f. Applicant has deleted the cited language from claim 22.

No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the drawings objection.

Response to the Specification Objections

The Specification is objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the following corrections have been made:

- The term “being stripped and” has been removed from claim 20. Applicant respectfully asserts that the remaining wording objected to regarding the optical fibers “connected to one receiver” and “connected to the other receiver” are fully supported and shown in Figure 1 and paragraphs [0020] and [0021].
- The cited language from part (d) of claim 20 has been deleted.
- The cited language from part (d) of claim 21 has been deleted.
- Applicant has amended the Specification to include the terms “inner” and “outer” in referring to the first and second sheaths and now believes that the cited language, namely, “inner sheath [21]...that overlies the optical fibers [17,18]” of claim 21 now has proper antecedent basis.
- Applicant has deleted the cited language from part (e) of claim 22.
- Applicant has deleted the cited language from part (f) of claim 22.

No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Response to the Claim Objection

Claim 14 is objected to because of a misspelling. Applicant has amended claim 14 to correct the spelling.

Response to the Claim Rejection

Claims 10, 12, 14, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Patent No. 4,783,137 to Kosman et al. Claims 18-22 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosman as applied to claims 10, 12 and 14-16, and further in view of Patent 4,923,268 to Xu. Claim 23 was not rejected on prior art but, instead, was deemed allowable for reciting sleeve wicks and optical fiber wicks intertwined around the first sheath. The features of claim 23 have been added to each of independent claims 10, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and therefore each define patentable subject matter. Although these claims were broadened in some

respect to respond to the drawings and specification objections, they were limited by including the patentable subject matter of claim 23, namely, the intermingling of the wicks over a sheath. The remaining pending claims depend from one of these independent claims and, therefore, each also defines patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

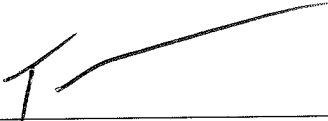
It is believed that each of claims 10, 12, 14-16, 18-22 and 24-27, is in compliance with 35 USC Sections 102 and 103, and as such, each define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore believed to be in order and the same is respectfully requested.

A one month extension fee of \$60 for a small entity is included with this communication. Should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to charge any required fees associated with this or any other communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite the prosecution and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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